

Story #589 (1963 Tape #4)

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Location: Pazarören village
Pınarbaşı kaza
Kayseri Province

Date: Summer 1963

Veli Kahya and Hasan Kahya¹

brothers -- two

Once there were two brothers in a village. One was named Veli Kahya and the other Hasan Kahya. They had become old and quite foolish. Hasan Kahya had an oda² but Veli Kahya did not, and so Veli Kahya would often be his brother's guest. Veli wore *shoes -- wooden* wooden shoes, and he would often clatter about in them with little to do

There was a popular song in those days by Sülüoğlu³ Abdurrahman. When Hasan Kahya would sing that song, Veli Kahya would object and say, "No, that is not the way to sing that! You are singing it incorrectly. It goes like this." Then the two of them would start quarreling over the song. One day as they were quarreling in this way, Veli Kahya took off one of his wooden shoes and started to beat the wall with it. "I shall never come to your oda again!" he shouted.

But a few days later Hasan Kahya looked up and saw Veli Kahya coming toward his oda, takır, tukır.⁴ Veli Kahya said, "Well, Hasan, I could not help coming, and so here I am again."

¹ This is an Avşar anecdote. Remnants of the once-powerful Avşar tribe live in the Pınarbaşı area; many are still semi-nomadic.

² An oda is a guest room or sometimes a small guest house.

³ Sülü- is here a shortened form of Süleyman. Eastern Turks often use such shortened forms: Fato for Fatma, Mehmo for Mehmet, Haso for Hasan.

⁴ This is onomatopoeia for the sound of Veli's wooden shoes.

Story #589

"Welcome, brother," said Hasan Kahya. "I did not mean to offend you, but what I said was true: The place in the song was Bercin Yayla."⁵

"No, the place was named Farı Yayla," said Veli.

"No, it was not Farı but Bercin Yayla," insisted Hasan, and the two would start quarreling all over again.

⁵ A yayla is a summer pasture, usually in the mountains, where it is cool. Although Avşars are sedentary during the winter, they become nomadic during the warm-weather months, taking their large flocks and all of their other possessions into the mountains. Their slow-moving caravans, as they migrate to and from their yaylas, provide colorful spectacles on the landscape.